

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, claims 21-24 and 26-39 are amended, and claims 40-41 are added. Claims 21-41 are pending.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The claim amendments are solely intended to voluntarily improve the clarity of the claims. The amendments are not made for purposes of patentability since the claims have not been rejected for lack of clarity.

Claims 40-41 are added to more fully claim the full scope of the invention, and find support in the original disclosure at, e.g., page 2, lines 29-31. Claims 40-41 also further distinguish over the applied art because the primary reference, Hunter et al., requires a lubricant within the tablet mixture added to the tablet press. See Hunter et al. at, e.g., column 7, lines 38-39, and column 13, lines 22-25 and 60-63. Assuming solely for the sake of argument that the secondary references (in particular, Schmitz et al.) would have motivated a person skilled in the art to coat the tablet press with lubricant, there would still have been no motivation to proceed completely contrary to the teachings of Hunter et al. by providing none of the lubricating agent in the tablet mixture fed into the tablet press. Thus, the proposed combination of reference teachings does not render claims 40-41 obvious.


For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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